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May 17, 2010

Hon. Jerry Costello  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2251 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Costello:


Recent press reports have indicated that Mr. Faisal Shahzad, the alleged Times Square bomber, was permitted to board an international flight from John F. Kennedy Airport in New York to Dubai, UAE, despite the fact that he was listed on several terrorist watch lists, including the so-called no-fly list.

My constituents, many of whom commute daily into New York City, cannot comprehend how a man who was under surveillance by the FBI, who was on the no fly list, and who was a suspect in a terrorism investigation could possibly be allowed to board an international flight. I share their outrage.

As I mentioned to you last week, I believe that that the Subcommittee should look into this matter. I recognize that a hearing may not be appropriate due to security concerns, however I hope that as soon as it is practicable the Subcommittee can host a classified briefing by the appropriate security agencies for Members of the Subcommittee. If there is legislative action required to prevent this from ever happening again, it is imperative that the Subcommittee act and act quickly.

Thank you for everything you do, Chairman Costello, for the safety of the aviation industry and the flying public. I look forward to continuing to work with you and our colleagues on the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

  
John Hall  
Member of Congress

Cc: Ranking Member Tom Petri